



GCE AS/A level

1402/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP2
Governing Modern Wales

A.M. MONDAY, 2 June 2014

1 hour 30 minutes

1402
010001

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer any **TWO** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The maximum mark for this paper is 80.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that credit will be given for reference to concepts and examples, where relevant, from the politics and government of Wales.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in answers that involve extended writing (part (c) questions).

Answer two questions.

Each question is worth 40 marks.

1. The British Constitution

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

The separation of powers

In the analysis of any system of government, the powers of the state are widely grouped under three headings: legislative branch, executive branch and *judicial branch*. These can be related in many countries to distinctive institutions, whose functions are kept separate.

- 5 The impartiality of the judiciary legitimises the whole administration of justice in the UK. Judges are sometimes seen as stout defenders of the rights and freedoms of citizens against arbitrary and unjustified acts by governments and public authorities.

British Politics, Leach, Coxall and Robins

- (a) What is meant by the term *judicial branch* (line 2)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how the principle of separation of powers relates to the British Constitution. [10]
- (c) 'The strengths of the British Constitution outweigh its weaknesses.' Discuss. [25]

2. Parliamentary Structures in Wales and the UK

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

The relationship between the House of Commons and the House of Lords

Parliament is composed of two debating chambers, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. However, power is not evenly distributed between the two Houses. The elected House of Commons can over-rule decisions made in the unelected House of Lords by invoking the *Parliament Act*.

- 5 The House of Lords is therefore a revising chamber, and peers – many of whom are experts in a particular field of public policy such as economics or health – regularly ask the government to re-think important legislation.

Guide to the House of Lords, www.bbc.co.uk

- (a) What is meant by the term *Parliament Act* (line 4)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the influence the House of Lords has within Parliament. [10]
- (c) 'Parliamentary sovereignty gives Parliament the dominant role in its relationship with government.' Discuss. [25]

3. The Core Executives in Wales and Westminster

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Civil Servants and Special Advisers

Since 1945, prime ministerial power has grown significantly as a result of the build-up of bodies and advisers who support the prime minister. The role and influence of the Cabinet Office was significantly extended under Blair, who created new special offices and units such as the Delivery Unit to monitor and improve policy delivery.

- 5 In addition, the number and significance of special advisers, who are responsible directly to the prime minister, has increased markedly. Whereas John Major had eight special advisers, Tony Blair eventually had 50. Blair also became the first prime minister to give senior special advisers formal control over *civil servants*.

Essentials of UK Politics, Andrew Heywood

- (a) What is meant by *civil servants* (line 8)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why special advisers are important to the Prime Minister. [10]
- (c) Critically assess where power really lies in the core executives in Wales and Westminster. [25]

4. Multi-level Governance in Wales and the UK

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Local Government in the UK

There are around 22,000 councillors in Britain. A large proportion of these are independent of any political party, or represent a non-political party organisation such as a residents' association or a community group. Local councils are democratically elected bodies with their own policy agenda and their own special relationship with local voters.

- 5 Unlike many of its continental counterparts, British local government remains constitutionally unprotected from the whims of central government to reorganise it, or even abolish it. Thus there exists a patchwork of local authorities throughout the UK, with some regions having *unitary authorities*, some having Community Councils etc..

Politics UK, Jones, Kavanagh, Moran and Norton

- (a) What is meant by the term *unitary authorities* (line 8)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how local government preserves local democracy in the UK. [10]
- (c) Evaluate the importance of the representative role of local government in Wales and the UK, compared to its other roles. [25]

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